



November 2, 2015

Senator Wayne Schmidt, Chair
Senate Commerce Committee

Senator Ken Horn, Chair
Senate International Investment Committee

Senator Tom Casperson, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

Dear Chairmen Schmidt, Horn, and Casperson:

On behalf of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and our colleagues with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, thank you for taking time to visit Northern Michigan to discuss a major economic and transportation infrastructure project in our region that will impact the entire Midwest – the construction of a 2nd Poe-sized lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

As you are most likely aware, or will hear today, the goods shipped through the Soo Locks feed the economic engines that fuel much of the economy in our state and throughout the Midwest. Funding for a new Poe-sized lock would accommodate larger vessels carrying iron ore, coal, and grain to destinations across the Great Lakes.

The Traverse City Area Chamber supports SR 105, sponsored by Senators Schmidt and Casperson, and joins them in urging President Obama, the United States Congress, and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to support the plans and funding required to upgrade the Soo Locks, a project that has been over 20 years in the making.

We would hate to see a scenario in which billions of dollars are lost because the single Poe lock were forced to shut down for an extended period of time. It is a risk to our economy and national security that we cannot afford to take.

Thank you for considering this important issue to our region and state.

Sincerely,

Kent R. Wood
Director of Government Relations